Misuse of Airport Identity Cards

†4248. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of Bureau of civil aviation security have recently found out in their inquiry that some officers/employees of Intelligence Bureau at various international and domestic airports of the country are misusing their Airport Identity Cards (AIC);

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to light; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop such a misuse?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Chennai on the international aviation map

4249. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently North-East has found a place on the international aviation map with the first Air India flight taking off for Bangkok;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to link Chennai with important and new destinations on the international aviation map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) Chennai is already linked to many international destinations such as London, Frankfurt, Singapore, Kualalumpur, Colombo, Jeddah, Kuwait, Dubai and other destinations in the Gulf.

More passenger facilities

4250. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more passenger facilities are proposed to be added to major airports; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the measures taken to provide expeditious clearance to the passengers to ease congestion faced due to bunching of flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bunching of flights during nights at international airports in India is due to night curfew imposed in airports east and west of the country. However,efforts are made wherever possible to provide expeditious clearance by providing more immigration counters, expansion of terminal areas, increasing length of baggage claim conveyors, improving passenger facilitation, providing additional aerobridges and coloured X-ray baggage machines, etc.

Legal expenses of AI

4251. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the legal expenses of Air India for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether Government have ordered any inquiry into the steep rise of legal expenses in Air India for the year 1999-2000;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry, who are the officials responsible and what action has been initiated against them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the above issue has been brought to his knowledge *vide* letter dated 8th January, 2002;and

(f) what action has been taken on the letter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The legal expenses of Air India during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are Rs. 19.14 crores and Rs. 7.64 crores respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. On 22.1.2002 MD, Air India has been asked to look into the matter. Accordingly, Chief Vigilance Officer of Air India Limited has been directed to enquire into the matter and his report is yet to be received.